Dear Colleagues,

This DVC(R) Bulletin #34 provides an update on important issues affecting researchers at UNSW. If you missed the previous bulletins – the contents are available at http://research.unsw.edu.au/deputy-vice-chancellor-research-bulletin.

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1. 2012 UNSW Vice-Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

Applications for the award of up to 12 Vice-Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellowships will open on 14 June and close on 24 August 2011. The application process is aimed at selecting a small pool of about 40 high quality applications. Heads of School are able to recommend a maximum of two (2) ranked applicants, who have submitted strong proposals in areas of research strength and who will build research capacity. The applicants will be considered by the Faculty, who will provide 25% of the salary for the successful applicants. Full details on eligibility, application process, and an information pack for Heads of School are available at https://research.unsw.edu.au/2012_VCFellowships. Successful fellowships will be announced in late October to coincide with the announcement of new ARC and NHMRC Fellows.

2. Research@UNSW Gateway

The Research@UNSW Gateway website is now live (www.research@unsw.edu.au) and currently contains more than 1300 researcher profiles. The immediate priority is to increase the number of projects profiled on the site. The Gateway Team is available to work with researchers to upload their projects. If you would like to discuss strategies for building the number of projects from your School or Faculty on the Gateway please email researchgateway@unsw.edu.au. Further information on how to load a profile or project, and other FAQs are available in the footer section of the website (http://research.unsw.edu.au/profile-and-project-page-faqs).
3. Sustainable Research Excellence (SRE) Survey

Further to my last Bulletin where I advised you that we must complete another 2-week Staff Activity Survey, or “diary exercise” for the Sustainable Research Excellence (SRE) Program in 2011. I can confirm that the Survey period for UNSW staff will be from Monday 18th July to Sunday 31st July 2011. The survey will be very similar to that conducted last year. Everybody who needs to complete the survey will receive an individual email on Friday 15th July 2011.

As with the previous survey, the data will only be used in aggregated form and not in any way that will identify an individual. The information will only be used to provide the Commonwealth with survey data we are required to provide.

The SRE scheme provides significant funding for the indirect costs of research to Universities. Over time, the SRE will effectively double the amount of funding available to support the indirect costs of research so it is an important exercise to be completed. If you have any questions regarding the completion of the survey, please email sre@unsw.edu.au, or phone either Grahame Pearson (x59376) or Wayne Wang (x53241).


We have received an invitation to comment on the revised National Framework for the Development of Ethical Principles in Gene Technology-2010 prepared by the Gene Technology Ethics Committee and Community Consultative Committee (GTECC).

By way of background, the Framework was first published in 2006 by the former Gene Technology Ethics Committee (GTEC) to provide a resource that would inform and facilitate the consideration of ethical issues in decision making at all levels of gene technology activity. The Framework aims to provide the Australian community, and particularly scientists working in gene technology, with a national reference point for ethical considerations. The National Framework 2006 document is available on the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) website at http://www.ogtr.gov.au/internet/ogtr/publishing.nsf/Content/commpub-1. Once the revised Framework is finalised, it will be made available on OGTR’s website.

I encourage, those in particular where OGTR and Gene Technology plays an integral party in their research, to provide comments to David Do (x52784, david.do@unsw.edu.au) by close of business 20 June 2011.

5. Non-Indigenous Animals Regulation – Call for Feedback

This is to draw your attention to a proposed new Regulation being made under the NSW Subordinate Legislation Act 1989. In accordance with section 5 of the Act, the NSW Department of Primary Industries intends to re-make the regulation under the Non-Indigenous Animals Act 1987.

The object of the Non-Indigenous Animals Act is to control and regulate the introduction of certain species of non-indigenous animals into NSW and the movement and keeping of those animals within the State.

The proposed regulation justifies continued controls over non-indigenous animals in order to protect the environment and agriculture, and proposes significant changes, including changes to which animals may be kept by private owners, on which comment from your organisation or agency is sought.

If your research involves non-indigenous animals you should read the proposed Regulation and Regulatory Impact Statement which are available for public comment from 19 May 2011 to 16 June
2011. They can also be accessed via the Department of Primary Industries website at http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/about/legislation-acts/review or by email to nia.regulation@industry.nsw.gov.au.

6. **Head, Biomedical Imaging Facility**

The new Head of the Biomedical Imaging Facility (BMIF) is Dr Renee Whan, effective May 30, 2011. The BMIF is part of the Mark Wainwright Analytical Centre and its primary focus is fluorescence microscopy. The research user base ranges from medical research through to bioengineering and nanotechnology. Dr Renee Whan’s details are: Mark Wainwright Analytical Centre, Rm 424, Lowy Cancer Research Centre C25, Ext 59394, e: r.whan@unsw.edu.au

7. **ERA Update**

A number of important changes to the 2012 ERA exercise have just been announced by the ARC. The key changes include:

1. A*/A/B/C ranks used in ERA 2010 will no longer be used in ERA 2012; instead the evaluation committee’s will be presented with a profile of journals and conferences for each unit of evaluation (UoE) ordered by descending frequency of publication;

2. The eligibility criteria for fractional staff will be raised to a 0.4 FTE appointment at the census date. To be eligible for submission, research outputs authored by staff not meeting this threshold will require a UNSW by-line.

3. The ERA 2012 methodology will now allow institutions to code journal articles with significant content (66% or greater) not represented by a journal’s FoR(s) to apportion the article to another appropriate FoR code of its choice. This will provide some additional flexibility in assigning journals to FoR codes.

4. The low volume threshold for all peer review disciplines in ERA 2012 will be 50 apportioned weighted outputs.

Further information on the changes is available at: http://www.arc.gov.au/era/era_2012/improvements_for_ERA_2012.htm

8. **Reviewing and assessing for the NHMRC & ARC**

We were reminded by the NHMRC this month, that it is an NHMRC requirement that researchers, in receipt of NHMRC funding, must agree to act as reviewers and assessors for the NHMRC. This comes as a prerequisite to accepting NHMRC support.

Likewise the ARC also has this embedded in their guidelines. It’s not obvious how this could be policed but one might expect that compliance monitoring becomes an easier and mechanical task in this day where everything is controlled centrally by massive NHMRC and ARC data bases.

Les Field
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)